Restriction on outsourcing of call centres and IT Services

1248. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the issue of putting restrictions on outsourcing of call centres and IT services has come up during the meeting between him and the US Trade Representative Mr. Robert Zoellick recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions took place between the two leaders on these issues;

(c) whether it does not amount contrary to the spirit of market access and cannot it be called technically, as restrictions on the movement of natural persons by USA; and

(d) if so, the reaction of USA in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. The issue regarding Bills for restricting outsourcing of Government contracts to outside of USA was raised in the meeting with United States Trade Representative (USTR) and India's concern was registered. USTR described these Bills as "bad policy".

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The proposed Bills are against the spirit of market access. None of the Bills have so far been passed.

Growth centres in Uttaranchal

1249. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the growth centres selected in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether Government are providing economic assistance for development of these growth centres;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some new growth centres are proposed to be set up in the State; and